



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/069,458	02/26/2002	Masaji Shiga	04632.0047	3328

7590 03/10/2004  
Finnegan Henderson Farabow  
Garrett & Dunner  
1300 I Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005

EXAMINER

JONES, DAVID B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3725

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/069,458

Applicant(s)

SHIGA ET AL.

Examiner

David B Jones

Art Unit

3725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) none is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The claims appear to be a product of translation from a foreign document, as such it should be reviewed for non-idiomatic and awkward recitations. It is not clear from the drawings or specification the function of the control gauge 8. On page 7, the applicant calls for a labyrinth structure. It is not clear from the drawings or the specification what makes for such a structure. On line 9 of page 7, the limitation "the labyrinth structure has four parts bent in the direction of the projection of shots" is not understood. The cramping member 11 as set forth in page 5 is not understood as a limitation. It is never made clear how such a structure is used in the combination. Appropriate correction is required.

2. The drawings are objected to because the details of Fig.1 is lacking. The drawing is so small and jumbled as to preclude a clear viewing of the various elements of the combination. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims as a whole are indefinite and appear to be a product of translation from a foreign document; as such it contains many limitations that lack antecedent basis. All indicating numerals in claims should be placed in

Art Unit: 3725

parenthesis. Claim 1 will be treated but all the claims contain like problems as to that of claim 1, and hence should be reviewed and amended into proper claim format. On line 4 of claim 1, "the first and second –side cover" lacks antecedent basis. Further on line 5 of claim 1, "at right and left sides" lacks antecedent basis. On line 6 of claim 1, "which can be opened and closed" is an indefinite and unclear recitation. On line 8 of claim 1, the limitation, "engaged by screws to the impeller cover" is awkward and unclear in meaning. On lines 10/11 of claim 1, "a rotating shaft of the impeller" fails to be positively recited in the combination. On line 12/13 of claim 1, "the ends of the first and second side liner components" lacks antecedent basis. On line 14, "the upper ends of the first and second side liner components" also lacks antecedent basis. Again all the claims should be reviewed and amended into proper claim format. In claim 3 it is not clear what structure makes for a labyrinth structure.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schulte et al., Kwolek, or Bowling, Jr., et al., DE 2,437,493, and JP 49-27792-01. These patents all teach covers and liners within them, that are attached by way of fasteners. Further these patents teach a labyrinth structure as can best be understood.

6. Claims 5-9 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Art Unit: 3725

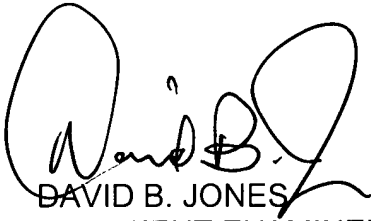
7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David B. JONES whose telephone number is (703) 308-1887.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

In the event that the Applicant(s) wishes to communicate via Fax, the current central Fax number for the patent office is (703) 872-0906

DBJ



DAVID B. JONES  
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3725